

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EA-06 ITF-05 SSO-00 SR-02

ORM-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 VO-01 SCA-01 IO-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 H-01 L-01 EUR-08 /060 W

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P 291435Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4501

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 2861

LIMDIS

NEA/ARN FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, JO

SUBJECT: KHMER EMBASSY POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST

REFS: AMMAN 2621, AMMAN 2738, AMMAN 2622, AMMAN 2847,
STATE 84161, STATE 96189, STATE 90644

1. SUMMARY: KHMER AMBASSADOR AND OTHER TWO KHMER EMBASSY OFFICERS (REFTELS) HAVE RECONFIRMED AND SUBMITTED IN WRITING THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US. HOWEVER, PURSUANT TO MOST RECENT INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT (STATE 96189) TO LOOK FIRST TO OTHER SOURCES, KHMER AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO APPROCAHED GOJ FOR ASSISTANCE AND THE TWO OTHER CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS ALSO PLANNING TO DO SO. GOJ'S POSITION IS THAT CAMBODIANS FREE TO REMAIN IN JORDAN AS LONG AS THEY LIKE BUT GOJ CAN PROVIDE NO FINANCIAL SUPPORT. ONLY PM RIFAI, WHO RETURNS IN MID-MAY COULD REVERSE THIS DECISION. CAMBODIANS' FINANCES CAN LAST UNTIL MID-MAY BUT THEIR FINANCIAL PROSPECTS IN JORDAN LOOK BLEAK AFTER THAT. THERE IS NO UNHCR OFFICE IN AMMAN AND WE WELCOME SUGGESTIONS AS TO OTHER ALTERNATIVES THEY CAN EXPLORE.

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WE BELIEVE SPECIAL SITUATION HERE MERITS SPEEDY PAROLE OF

KHMER DIPLOMATS INTO US. REQUEST GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DURING RECENT DAYS DEALING WITH KHMER AMBASSADOR AND THE OTHER TWO KHMER EMBASSY OFFICERS IN AMMAN REGARDING THEIR REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US. BRIEFLY, ALL THREE KHMER DIPLOMATS HERE, AND WITH EACH OTHER'S KNOWLEDGE, HAVE DECIDED TO REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE US AND SUBMITTED THESE REQUESTS TO US IN WRITING (BEING TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT BY AIRGRAM).

3. WE INFORMED CAMBODIANS ON APRIL 27 AND 28 OF INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL---THAT WHILE PAROLE OF CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS TO US IS A POSSIBILITY, THEY SHOULD LOOK FIRST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT, UNHCR, ICEM OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. ONLY THEN WOULD PAROLE TO US BE CONSIDERED ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

4. WHILE DISAPPOINTED WITH ABSENCE OF IMMEDIATELY FAVORABLE RESPONSE KHMER AMBASSADOR REACTED CONSTRUCTIVELY AND ON APRIL 28 MADE ORAL REQUEST TO DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF JORDANIAN FONMIN FOR GOJ ASSISTANCE IN REQUEST THAT WAS TANTAMOUNT TO REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, WHILE INDICATING THAT PREVIOUS ASYLUM REQUEST TO USG REMAINS HIS FIRST CHOICE. KHMER AMBASSADOR STATES THAT ALL THREE DIPLOMATS WILL SUBMIT THIS IN WRITING TO FONMIN ON APRIL 29-30.

5. CHARGE' INFORMED GOJ FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY HASSAN IBRAHIM AND DIR POL AFFAIRS BATAYNEH OF KHMER POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUESTS ON APRIL 29. HE THANKED GOJ FOR POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO KHMER SITUATION AND WENT OVER GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE 96189. FONMIN OFFICIALS CONFIRMED KHMER AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR HIMSELF AND OTHERS AND STATED THAT GOJ POSITION, AS FORMULATED BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IS THAT KHMER DIPLOMATS ARE FREE TO REMAIN IN JORDAN AS LONG AS THEY LIKE BUT THAT GOJ COULD NOT RPT NOT PORVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. UNDERSECRETARY SAID THER NO PROSPECT OF CHANGING THIS POSITION FOR IMMEDIATE, SINCE IN ANY CASE PRIME MINISTER RIFAI
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WILL NOT RETURN TO JORDAN UNTIL MID-MAY.

6. KHMER AMBASSADOR STATED HE HAS CLOSED KHMER EMBASSY AND FORMALLY INFORMED GOJ FONMIN HIS MISSION IS TERMINATED. EMBASSY LETTING GO OF ALL LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND KHMER DIPLOMATS ARE SELLING PERSONAL AUTOMOBILES, ETC. KHMER EMBASSY HAS STILL RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS NOR HAS GOJ RECEIVED REPLY TO ITS RECOGNITION OF

SIHANOUK REGIME.

7. KHMER AMBASSADOR IN PRESENCE OTHER KHMER OFFICERS WAS RELUCTANT TO APPROACH UNHCR OR OTHER REFUGEE ORGANS. HE SAID KHMER DIPLOMATS WOULD BE TREATED AS GENERAL REFUGEES (WITH LONG WAITS IN REFUGEE CAMPS AND TRANSIT FACILITIES, ETC.) WHEREAS HE WOULD HOPE THEY COULD BE ACCORDED SPECIAL TREATMENT AS DIPLOMATS WHICH HE DOUBTS IS PROVIDED FOR IN UNHCR OPERATING REGULATIONS.

8. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT THERE NO UNHCR OFFICE HERE (CLOSEST IS WE BELIEVE IN BEIRUT) AND WE (AND FONMIN) AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO SUGGEST AS ALTERNATIVE RELIEF CHANNELS KHMER DIPLOMATS COULD CONTACT. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT ON THIS.

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EA-06 ITF-05 SSO-00 SR-02

ORM-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 VO-01 SCA-01 IO-03 NSC-05

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P 291435Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4502

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 2861

LIMDIS

NEA/ARN FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING

9. AMBASSADOR SAYS CURRENT KHMER FUNDS CAN ONLY LAST UNTIL MID-MAY AND HE SEES (AS WE DO) LITTLE PROSPECT AT PRESENT OF FINDING GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT IN JORDAN. RENT IS PAID ON HOUSING HOWEVER FOR ANOTHER SEVERAL MONTHS. MEANWHILE, KHMER DIPLOMATS ARE POOLING PERSONAL ASSETS AND REDUCING EXPENSES.

10. COMMENT: WITH LITTLE PROSPECT OF GOJ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, KHMER DIPLOMATS PRESENTLY APPEAR TO FACE BLEAK FUTURE HERE. UNLESS ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IS FORTHCOMING (WHICH WE DO NOT SEE ON HORIZON), WE SEE RAPID DETERIORATION OF THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION. KHMER MISSION IS ONLY ONE IN ARAB WORLD (ALTHOUGH THERE IS ONE IN ISRAEL) AND THEY FEEL INCREASINGLY ISOLATED. KHMER DIPLOMATS ARE AWARE OF ENORMOUS REFUGEE PROBLEMS US IS CONFRONTING BUT ARE STILL HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL QUALIFY FOR SPEEDY PAROLE TO US. ONLY OTHER POSSIBILITY MENTIONED BY KHMER AMBASSADOR WAS RESETTLEMENT IN CANADA, BECAUSE OF USE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE THERE. ONE DIPLOMAT (LEK CHHAN) HAS A SON CURRENTLY STUDYING IN US.

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11. KHMER DIPLOMATS ARE CONFRONTING SITUATION WITH GREAT COURAGE AND DIGNITY BUT DO NOT LOOK FORWARD TO LONG AND FRUSTRATING PROSPECT OF EXHAUSTING ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE BEFORE QUALIFYING FOR PAROLE TO US. IN VIEW OF GOOD FAITH ALREADY DEMONSTRATED BY KHMER DIPLOMATS AND OF OUR OWN ROLE IN ACTIVELY SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF KHMER MISSION HERE, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT GIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO THEIR SPEEDY PAROLE TO US.

12. WE BELIEVE TRAFFIC ON THIS SUBJECT CAN NOW BE REMOVED FROM EXDIS CATEGORY.
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